



Norwegian probates

Anka Schjerven Magee, B.S.; AG®

ankamoss@familysearch.org

Objectives:

After this class you will be able to understand the following:

- The purpose of probates
- What information can be found in them
- Where they can be located
- How to extract information from them

Various types of probates:

- Verdslig (by eller sorenskriveri) – city or magistrate's office, most people fall in this category
- Geistlig (stift eller provsti): clergy and / or school teachers
- Military
- Probate indexes
- Dødsfall protokoller: death notices
- Probate indexes

Christian V's law of 1687:

- A probate needed to be done if there were minor children
- Spouses will get 50% and children split the other 50%; sons would get twice the amount daughters got; (hovedlod, broderlod, and søsterlod)
- A probate had to be done before a person could remarry. A clue to when this took place could be found in the marriage entry for the new marriage
- Legal age was 25 (pre-1869)
- Widows needed a legal guardian (laugverge), could be father, brother, brother in law, uncle, etc

- Unmarried adult women were first considered to be “of age” in 1863; married women in 1888
- Married women were represented by their husbands
- Guardians or “verge” (all male) are chosen from both sides of the family: fathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers
- Women expecting at the time of husband’s death could ask to have the probate done after the birth of the child for the child to have inheritance right like the other children.

Who had probates?

Only a small portion of the population had a probate, and that number was not a good representation

- 17-1800’s: 20-25 % of population had a probate; today only 5%
- The poorest people - usually no probate
- The very rich had their own probate commissions
- “Føderåds folk” passed on their property and some assets before they died.

The probate process:

- The property would be sealed for 30 days after the registration of the probate to make an inventory the estate.
- Heirs would be notified. If they lived far away time was given for them to arrive, or send representation.

Information found in the probate:

- Date the probate was registered, seldom is the death date given
- Name of the diseased, occupation, and residence
- Names of surviving spouse, and heirs, age of minor children
- In certain cases even siblings and grandchildren
- Names of guardians
- Estate inventory

Probate records (skifte protokoller) in Norway can be found on www.digitalarkivet.no. Look down the middle column on the opening page of the digital archives until you see “probate records” or “skifte protokoller”. Click on that.

Shortcuts

Censuses

New solution for scanned censuses (beta) | 1664-1666 (Digitised) | 1701 (Digitised) | 1701 | 1769-1855 | 1801 (Digitised) | 1801 | 1865 (Digitised) | 1865 | 1875 | 1885 | 1891 (Digitised) | 1900 | 1910 | Municipal Censuses | Full text transcriptions

Parish registers

Digitised Parish Registers from Norway | Digitised Parish Registers from abroad | Transcribed parish registers | Search forms for transcribed parish registers | Marriage register (secular) (digitised) | Full text transcriptions

Real estate registers

Property search | Scanned property pledge registers | Scanned pledge books

Emigrants

Probate records



ARKIVVERKET
DIGITALARKIVET

Skannet skiftemateriale

Velg ut skiftekilder

Velg skifteforvaltning

Alle

Velg fylke

Alle

Velg embete

Velg protokolltype

Alle

Angi periode

Søk i navn på embete/område

UTFØR

Opphev valg

- Choose “type” of probate: verdslig, geistlig, or military
- Choose county
- Choose “office”: city office, police office, or rural offices
- Choose type of record: probate, death notices, or indexes, etc.

After having made your choices hit the “utfør” button to begin your search.

Velg ut skifteklider

Velg skifteforvaltning

Alle

Velg fylke

Østfold

Velg embete

Moss sorenskriveri

Velg protokolltype

Skifteprotokoll

Angi periode

Søk i navn på embete/område

UTFØR Opphev valg

Utvalget ditt inneholder 29 kilder:

Østfold

Moss sorenskriveri

Skifteprotokoll 1

03.1771 - 21.03.1781

Skifteprotokoll 2

03.1781 - 01.03.1787

Skifteprotokoll 3

03.1787 - 23.07.1790

Skifteprotokoll 4

07.1790 - 14.08.1795

Skifteprotokoll 5

08.1795 - 27.08.1802

Skifteprotokoll 6

09.1802 - 10.11.1809

Skifteprotokoll 7

11.1809 - 22.08.1812

Skifteprotokoll 8

08.1812 - 30.05.1817

Skifteprotokoll 9

05.1817 - 21.08.1820

19 - 1822

register

register

Select your time period and start your search for your ancestor's probate. There will be some time periods that have index "register", but many do not. Some probates are indexed by last name and others by farm name; very few are indexed by given name.

For further reading on probates in Norway see the following article found on FamilySearch.org Norway wiki page:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Probate_Records

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Probate_Index_Cards_\(FamilySearch_Historical_Collections\)](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Probate_Index_Cards_(FamilySearch_Historical_Collections))

Vocabulary:

A short probate glossary: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Glossary

A more comprehensive word list:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norwegian_Genealogical_Word_List